Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8019

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE ONLY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652: N/A TAGS: EAID, MY

SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS

REF: STATE 163691

1. WHAT SAM BROWN HAS TOLD YOU IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT, BUT LET ME FILL YOU IN A BIT ON THE CONTEXT:

2. PEACE CORPS MALAYSIA'S FY 1978 COUNTRY STRATEGY PROJECTED A FAIRLY SHARP INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PCV'S FROM THE CURRENT LEVEL OF ABOUT 220 TO 270 IN 1978 AND 280 IN 1979, THEN TAPERING OFF BY 1982 TO ABOUT 190. YOU MAY RECALL THAT FRANK UNDERHILL OBJECTED TO THIS INCREASE AND IMPOSED A 200-PCV CEILING SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. SINCE THEN, BECAUSE OF SHORTFALLS IN PCV RECRUITING IN THE U.S., AS WELL AS SOME UNFORESEEN REDUCTIONS IN GOM REQUESTS, CURRENT FORWARD PROJECTIONS OF PCV LEVELS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1978 FLUCTUATE BETWEEN 220 AND 185. THESE FIGURES TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE APPROVALS FOR SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER AND MARCH RECRUITING THAT I HAVE JUST GIVEN. THUS, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, UNDERHILL'S EARLIER CONCERNS ABOUT NUMBERS ARE ESSENTIALLY BEING MET IN THE SHORT TERM.

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3. I HAVE TOLD BOB GRAULICH, THE LOCAL PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR, THAT I AM NOT SO INTERESTED IN A CEILING FOR PCV'S PER SE AS I AM IN ENSURING THAT PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS HERE ARE WELL FOCUSSED IN SPECIFIC AREAS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE GOM'S OBJECTIVES OF IMPROVING THE LOT OF MALAYSIANS AT THE LOWER-END OF THE ECONOMIC SCALE. I HAVE SAID THAT I THOUGHTPEACE CORPS TEACHING PROGRAMS AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL AND, OVER THE LONGER

TERM, IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, WERE VULNERABLE IN THIS REGARD. GRAULICH ASSURES ME THAT PC PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSITY TEACHING IS IN ITS FINAL STAGES AS MALAYSIANS QUALIFY FOR SUCH POSITIONS. HE ALSO INDICATES THAT PCV TEACHING AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL WILL BE INCREASINGLY RESTRICTED TO THE MORE RURAL STATES WHERE TEACHER SHORTAGES WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST FOR SOME TIME AND WHERE CURRICULA ARE MORE RELATED TO ACTUAL LOCAL NEEDS. THIS IS SATISFACTORY TO ME AT PRESENT.

4. AT THE SAME TIME, I HAVE STRESSED TO GRAULICH THAT IN VIEW OF GENERAL BUDGETARY PRESSURES AND CONCERNS IN WASH-INGTON REGARDING THE SIZE OF THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN PRESENCE ABROAD, I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE WISE TO AVOID PROPOSING IN THE FUTURE ANY SHARP INCREASES IN THE NUMBER OF PCV'S. ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE ASKED HIM TO CONSIDER THE CURRENT ACTUAL PCV PERSONNEL PROJECTIONS (220-185) AS A NEW BASE LINE FOR FUTURE PLANNING AND PROJECTIONS AND TO CONSIDER THE EARLIER HIGHER FY 1978 PLANNING PROJECTIONS AS OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. GRAULICH ACCEPTS THIS, BUT HIS INSTINCT IS TO CONTINUE TO PLAN FOR PROGRAMS WHICH HE BELIEVES ARE IMPORTANT AND USEFUL. EVEN IF IT MEANS INCREASING NUMBERS IN THE FUTURE. WHEN I POINT OUT THAT MALAYSIA'S STATE OF DEVELOPMENT AND GREAT PROSPERITY RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEED FOR A LARGE PC PROGRAM HERE, HE POINTS OUT CORRECTLY THAT MALAYSIA STILL HAS MANY RURAL POOR AND THUS MANY OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY, AND THAT PEACE CORPS RESOURCES ARE BETTER USED HERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAN IN MORE BACKWARD COUNTRIES.

5. IN SUM, WE HAVE REACHED A VERY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT AT PRESENT, AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S POINT OF VIEW WELL. NUMBERS AND PROGRAM CONTENT COULD BECOME AN ISSUE AGAIN WHEN GRAULICH PRESENTS ME (IN DECEMBER OR JANUARY) WITH THE NEXT PROPOSED RECRUITING CYCLE, BUT I FULLY ANTICIPATE THAT SUCH ISSUES CAN BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. MILLER

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